

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185248

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO JCS
SECDEF
USCINCEUR
SETAF VICENZA

UNCLAS STATE 185248

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 11893 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MILAN
DTD 23 JUL

QTE

UNCLAS ROME 11893

FOR OES/L. GRANT

DEPT PASS TO EPA/F. GREEN.

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SENV, IT
SUBJ: EXPLOSION OF LETHAL GAS IN LOMBARDY

1. MINISTRY OF HEALTH URGENTLY REQUESTS COUNSEL CONCERNING
NECESSARY STEPS TO CONFINE AND LIMIT EXPOSURE TO HUMANS AND
ANIMALS OF TWO KILOGRAM OF TETRACHLORO DIBENZO PARA DIOXINE
(TCDD) WHICH WAS RELEASED FROM CONTAINER BY EXPLOSION IN
WAREHOUSE OF SWISS SUBSIDIARY ICMESA OF GIVAUDAN OF ZURICH.
INSTEAD OF NORMAL CONTENT OF FIVE GRAMS FOR EACH TON OF
PRODUCT, TWO KILOGRAMS, AS NOTED ABOVE, WERE PRESENT (IN 500
KILOGRAMS OF THE PRODUCT). THE EXPLOSION HAS RESULTED IN THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 185248

FOLLOWING:

A. A DENSE CLOUD OF THE GAS HWS SETTLED IN THE SUBURB OD
MEDA, ABOUT 25 TO EP KM NORTH OF MILAN.

B. SINCE THE GAS IS OF HIGH TOXICITY WITH SERIOUS EFFECTS
ON LIVER, SKIN, DIGESTIVE MECHANISM AND GENETIC CHARACTERISTICS
OF MICE AND RABBITS, SEVERAL PEOPLE (27) HAVE ALREADY BEEN
HOSPITALIZED WITH SYMPTOMS OF NAUSEA, VOMIT, HEADACHES, SKIN
REDDENING, AND SEVERAL ANIMALS HAVE DIED. HEALTH OFFICIALS HAVE
DECICED THAT ALL ANIMALS IN THE EFFECTED AREA WILL BE DESTROYED.

C. PUBLIC REACTION IS SUCH THAT THE DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR OF THE FIRM HAVE BEEN JAILED. VOLPE UNQTE
KISSINGER

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